

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7625

BILL NUMBER: HB 1651

DATE PREPARED: Jan 10, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Honorary diploma for veterans.

FISCAL ANALYST: David Hoppmann

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**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that a veteran of World War II who: (1) attended high school in Indiana before entering military service; (2) because of the military service did not graduate from high school; and (3) was honorably discharged; or a surviving spouse or other relative of such a veteran, may apply for a high school diploma issued by the Indiana State Board of Education.

It requires the Department of Education (the Department) to process the applications and, in consultation with the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs, assist the high school from which the veteran would have graduated, or its successor high school, in organizing suitable exercises to recognize the awarding of the diploma.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Department of Education and the Department of Veterans' Affairs would incur an indeterminable increase in administrative expenses in accordance with the provisions of this bill. These expenses could be absorbed within the agencies' existing budgets.

The Department of Education would be required to develop and process an indeterminable number of applications of eligible World War II veterans seeking high school diplomas. In addition, it would be required to design and distribute the high school diplomas via ceremonies at local high schools.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs would be required to coordinate with the Department of Education in order to facilitate appropriate local ceremonies in order to award each diploma.

Since relatives of deceased veterans would be eligible to apply for high school diplomas to be awarded posthumously, a total of approximately 4,000 diplomas could be awarded in accordance with this bill. (The specific number of World War II veterans who interrupted their high school studies to serve is currently

indeterminable.)

Background- The Indiana War Memorials Commission reports that approximately 4,000 Hoosiers served in World War II. It is estimated that approximately 128,000 World War II veterans live in Indiana today.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Local school corporations would experience a minimal increase in administrative expenses regarding the provisions of this bill. The specific effects would vary between school corporations, and would depend upon the number of World War II veterans who interrupted their high school studies to serve.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education; Department of Veteran's Affairs.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations.

Information Sources: John Brinkley, Department of Veterans' Affairs, (317) 232- 3919; Bill Sweeney, Indiana War Memorials Commission, (317) 232-7616.